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MEDIA RELEASE

CHURCH GROUPS CALL FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN EAST TIMOR

104 ORGANIZATIONS FRPM ASIA, THE PACIFIC AND AUSTRALIA, HAVE ENDORSED A STRONGLY WOEDED DECLARATION WICH CONDEMNS THE INDONESIAN OCCUPATION OF EAST TIMOR AND AFFIRMS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

THE DECLARATION COMES AT A TIME OF RENEXWED PUBLIC CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR ARISING FROM FRESH REPORTS OF CONTINUING FIGHTING AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES TRANSMITTED BY THE FRETILIN RADIO FROM INSIDE THE DISPUTED TERRITORY.

THE DECLARATION HAS BEEN CIRCULATED BY THE MELBQURNE BASED CHRISTINANS IN SOLIDARITY WITH EAST TIMOR IN REPOSPONSE TO FRESH APPEALS BY THE HEAD OF THE EAST TIMORESES CHURCH MGR. CARLOS BELO, FOR INTERNATIONAL CHURCH SUPPORT FOR THE BASIC RIGHTS OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE.

LAST DECEMBER MGR. BELO WROTE TO THE FRENCH COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE: 'DESPITE ALL FORCES AGAINST US, WE CONTINUE TO HOLD AND DESSIMINATE THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE EAST TIMOR CONFLIT IS A POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC ONE, AND THIS SOLUTION SHOULD INCLUDE, ABOVE ALL, THE RESPECT FOR THE RIGHT OF A PEOPLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.....AS LONG AS THIS IS NOT IMPLEMENTED, THERE WILL NOT BE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR EAST TIMORE

TALKS BETWEEN INDONESIA AND PORTUGAL ON THE FUTURE OF EAST TIMOR HAVE BEEN CONVENED BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL. THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT BEEN REPRESENTED AT THE DISCUSSIONS OR CONSULTED AND NO COMMITMENT TO CONSULT THEN HAS BEEN GIVEN BY THE UN. THE DECLARATION AFFIRMS 'THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT LEAD TO A JUSTSETTLEMENT UNLESS THEY INVOLVEREPRESENTATIVES OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE INCLUDING WHO RESIST THE PRESENT OCCUPATION.' THE DECLARATION ALSO CALLS FOR 'AN END TO HOSTILITIES' AND FOR 'ACCESS TO RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND TO INDEPENDENT VISITORS, JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS'.

35 PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC GROUPS FROM ASIA, 53 FROM AUSTRALIA AND 16 FROM THE PACIFIC, HAVE SIGNED THE DECLARATION. THEY COMPRISE BODIES SUCH AS RELIGIOUS ORDERS, LAY ORGANIZATIONS, UNITING CHURCH PRESBYTERIES AND A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL BODIES SUCH AS THE JAPANESE, HONG-KONG AND NEW ZEALAND CATHOLIC COMMISSIONS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AND THE PROTESTANT NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF JAPAN AND OFFICERS OF THE PACIFIC COUNCIL OFCHURCHES. A COMPLETE LIST OF SIGNATURES IS ATTACHED.

AN EAST TIMORESE CATHOLIC PRIEST, FATHER FRANCISCO FERNANDES, WILL PRESENT THE DECLARATION AND A LIST OF THE SUPPORTING CHURCH GROUPS TOHTHE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA DURING ITS ASSEMBLY IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA, JUNE 25/JULY5. FR. FERNANDES WHO WILL ATTEND THE CCA ASSEMBLY AS AN OBSERVER, IS CHAPLAIN TOHTHE EAST TIMORESE CHURCH REFUGEE COMMUNITY IN PEARCH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

DECLARATION ON BEHALF OF EAST TIMOR

RECOGNISING THAT THE TERRITORY OF AAST TIMOR HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED BY INDONESIA SINCE DECEMBER 1975, INFLICTING EXTREME LOSS OF LIFE AND DESTRUCTION:

RECOGNISING THAT THE INDONESIAN POLICY TO ISOLATE EAST TIMOR PREVENTS THE I.C.R.C. AND OTHER RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES FROM REACHING THOSE IN NEED, AND DENIES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSESS THE WHISHES OF THE PEOPLE INDEPENDENTLY:

CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED SINCE 1975, AS REPORTED BY CHURCH LEADERS IN EAST TIMOR AND BY INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS:

RECOGNISING THAT THE EAST TIMORESE HAVE BEEN DENIED THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION:

WELLCOMING, FINALLY, U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 37/30 WHICH ASKED THE U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL 'TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED, WITH A VIEW TO EXPLORING FOR ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE STTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM', AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE STEPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO BRING PORTUGAL AND INDONESIA INTO NEGOCIATIONS.

WE AFFIRM THAT NEGOCIATIONS WILL NOT LEAD TO A JUST SETTLEMENT UNLESS THEY:

1. INVOLVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE INCLUDING THOSE WHO RESIST THE PRESENT OCCUPATION

2. SECURE AND END TO HOSTILITIES WHICH PREVENT THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES FROM CONTRIBUTING FREELY TO NEGOCIATIONS LEADING TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. PROVIDE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS OF ACCESS TO RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND TO INDEPENDENT VISITORS, JOURNALITS AND DIPLOMATS.

4. INCLUDE AN ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH IS FREE FROM INTERFERENCE AND VERIFIED BY INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ACCEPTABLE TO THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE.

WE COMMEND ALL INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES WHICH OBSERVE THESE PROCESS OF A NEGOCIATION CONDUCTED ON SUCH TERMS.

AUSTRALIA

1. BRIGIDINE SISTERS
2. AUSTRALIAN STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOUVEMENT
3. 13 INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS
4. UNITING CHURCH
5. WORLD CHRISTIAN ACTION
6. CHRISTIANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE PHILIPINES
7. CHURCH AND SOCIETY COMMISSION OF NORTH QUEENSLAND
8. CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE
9. USTRALIANCATHOLIC RELIEF
10. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTRE
11. CLERGY FOR PEACE
12. PAX CHRISTI
13. CATHOLICS FOR PEACE
14. CATHOLIC FPOR PEACE - MELBOURNE
15. DIOCESAN YOUTH APOSTOLATE TEAM
16. NATIONAL CATHOLIC MISSIONARY COUNCIL
17. CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS NETWORK
18. YARRA THEOLOGICAL UNION
19. ASIAN BUREAU AUSTRALIA
20. ACTION FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT- NSW REGION
21. ACTION WORLD DEVELOPMENT- VICTORIAN REGION
22. JUSTICE EXTENSION GROUP
23. CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
24. TASKFORCE OF BAPTIST SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
25. FROGGATT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
26. QUAKER PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY
27. ST. MARY'S SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
28. ST. JOSEPH'S PEACE AND JUSTICE GROUP
29. ST. COLMAN'S SOCIAL GUILD
30. PRESBYTERY OF NEPEAN
31. ST. COLUMBA'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
32. HOLY FAMILY PARISH
33. ST. THOMAS MOORE'S PEACE AND JUSTICE GROUP
34. CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
35. UNITING CHURCH
36. PARISH COUNCIL
37. ST. COLMAN'S PARISH
38. GOOD SHEPHARD SOCIALJUSTICE GROUP
39. VAUCLUSE COLLEGE
40. PRESENTATION SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUP
41. SISTERS OF MERCY- ADELAIDE
42. SISTERS OF MERCY-MERCY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
43. SISTERS OF MERCY- BALLARAT
44. 3 INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS- BALLARAT DIOCESE
45. SISTERS OF MERCY JUSTICE GROUP
46. SISTERS OF SION
47. SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART
48. SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
49. LITTLE SISTERS OF JESUS
50. GOOD SHEPHARD SISTERS
51. GOOD SHEPHARD SISTERS PROVINCIAAL COUNCIL
52. BRIGIDINE SISTERS
53. PRESBYTERY OF ILLAWARRA

FIJI

1. OFFICERS OF PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

HONG-KONG

1. MARY KNOLL SISTERS
2. MARY KNOLL SISTERS-LOCAL COMMUNITY
3. MISSIONARY SISTERS OF ST. COLUMBAN
4. P.I.M.E. FATHERS SOCIAL CONCERN GROUP
5. CANOSSIAN DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY
6. STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH
7. MISSIONS ETRANGERES DE PARIS
8. INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CHRISTIAN WORKERS
9. JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION
10. CENTRE FOR THE PROGRESS OF PEOPLES
11. TAO FONG SHAN ECUMENICAL CENTRE
12. HOTLINE ASIA OCEANIA

JAPAN

1. NATIOANL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL PEACE COMMITTEEE
2. NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
3. CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CENTRE-HIROSHIMA
4. WORLD FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
5. RESOURCE CENTRE FOR PHILIPINE CONCERNS
6. RESEARCH-ACTION INSTITUTE FOR THE KOREANS
7. CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT THE INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE EAST TIMOR
8. NIPPON KIRIEUTO KIJODAN, OZORAYAMA CHURCH
9. MENNONITE CHRIST CHURCH
10. KURE HEIAN CHURCH
11. KURE YAMATE CHURCH
12. ORDER OF CAPUCHIN FRIARS MINOR
13. MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST. COLUMBAN
14. Y.W.C.A.- KUMAMATO
15. Y.W.C.A.- YOKOHAMA
16. Y.W.C.A.- KABE
17. Y.W.C.A.- OSAKA
18. Y.W.C.A.- KYOTO
19. Y.W.C.A.- KURE
20. CATHOLIC COUNCIL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
21. Y.W.C.A.- NAGOYA

NEW ZEALAND

1. DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
2. SACRED HEART COLLEGE
3. SACRED HEART AMNESTY
4. NATIONAL TEAM OF 'RENEWE'
5. ST. GREGORY'S SOCIAL CONCERNS GROUP
6. ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PARISH COUNCIL
7. RANGIORA PARISH COUNCIL
8. COUNCIL OF PRIEST
9. CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT
10. FRIENS SETTLEMENNT

COMISSÃO PARA OS DIREITOS DO POVO MAUBERE
LISBOA, 27 DE JUNHO 1985

A ATENÇÃO DO SERVIÇO AFRICA TIMOR-LESTE

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